

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraph bridging pages 18-19:

The sender apparatus 100 includes a communication interface 102, a processing unit (a CPU) 104, a ROM 106, a RAM 108, an interface-added storage device 110, and an input/output port 112 which are connected to each other via a bus 114 to form a signal processing system or a computer system. Challenge data are stored in the ROM 106 or the RAM 108. In general, the receiver apparatus 200 has one selected from among different-level reliabilities relating to at least one of copyright protection and information secrecy. Alternatively, the different-level reliabilities may mean different degrees of the legitimacy of the receiver apparatus 200, respectively. Data representing public keys corresponding to the respective different-level reliabilities are stored in the ROM 106 or the RAM 108. Specifically, the public keys correspond to reliability parameter values "1", "2", "3", ..., and "N", respectively. Here, N denotes a predetermined natural number equal to or greater than "2". Contents information (contents data) is stored in the storage device 110. The contents information can be fed to the storage device 110 from ~~an external~~ externally via the input/output port 112. Also, the contents information can be fed to the communication interface 102 from ~~an external~~ externally via the input/output port 112. The storage device 110 may be replaced by an interface-added contents-information reproducing device. The contents information includes header data having a signal representative of a designated reference reliability L_p assigned to the contents information. The communication interface 102 is connected to the transmission medium 150.

Page 23, third paragraph at lines 14-20:

In the sender apparatus 100, the processing unit 104 operates in accordance with a control program stored in the ROM 106. The control program may be fed to the RAM 108 from ~~an external~~ externally via the input/output port 112. Fig. 2 is a flowchart of a segment of the control program for the processing unit 104. The program segment in Fig. 2 relates to authentication and contents-information transmission.